Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00001 221800Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05
HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 /094 W
----------032399 221803Z /14
R 212010Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO

S E C R E T S E C T 1 OF 4 ASUNCION 2965
STATE PASS ACDA
EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MPOL PA
SUBJECT: ANNUAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE:
PARAGUAY
REF A) STATE 167901 B) STATE 168320 C) ASUNCION 1567
D) STATE 182987

1. SUMMARY: A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PARAGUAY, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OVERALL U.S. EFFORTS, IS JUSTIFIED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL AND NATION-BUILDING GROUNDS. IT CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LEVERAGE FOR ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS IN AREAS OTHER THAN MILITARY AND IT HAS MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PARAGUAY'S DEVELOPMENT. THIS FIRST ANNUAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR PARAGUAY CONTAINS THE CHIEF OF MISSION'S ESTIMATE OF PROGRAM LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR FY80, FY81 AND FY82. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS SUBMISSION IS KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 3A OF REFERENCE A:
A. THIS IS THE FIRST ANNUAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR PARAGUAY AS OF 20 JULY 1978. IT ADDRESSES BUDGET YEAR FY80 AND TWO OUT YEARS, FY81 AND FY82.

(1). U. S. INTERESTS: THE U. S. HAS NO DIRECT SECURITY
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SECRET

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 00001 221800Z

INTEREST RELATED TO PARAGUAY. IT IS IN OUR LONG TERM REGIONAL SECURITY INTEREST TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE IN PARAGUAY. PARAGUAY'S EFFECT ON REGIONAL SECURITY STEMS FROM ITS LOCATION AS A BUFFER STATE BETWEEN RIVALS, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, ITS VALUE AS AN EXPORTER OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS AND ITS POTENTIAL HUGE OUTPUT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA, OF HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY. OUR LONG-STANDING PROGRAM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

JUSTIFIED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL AND NATION-BUILDING GROUNDS, RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF PARAGUAY'S CONTRIBUTION TO U.S. MILITARY SECURITY.

OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ORIENTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES' NATION-BUILDING EFFORTS, HAS MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PARAGUAY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT HAS PROVIDED LEVERAGE FOR ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS ACROSS THE BOARD.

THE PRESENCE OF A THREE-MAN MILITARY TEAM--THE ODC--AS A PART OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HAS REPRESENTATIONAL AND FOREIGN POLICY UTILITY. THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HEADED BY PRESIDENT (GENERAL) STROESSNER, CONSIDERS THIS PRESENCE HIGHLY DESIRABLE BECAUSE OF THE SYMBOLIC VALUE OF CONTINUED MILITARY TIES TO THIS COUNTRY, WEDGED AS IT IS BETWEEN TWO POWERFUL NEIGHBORS. FURTHERMORE, THE ODC PROVIDES A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO THE INFLUENTIAL OFFICER CORPS, WHO CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING PARAGUAY'S POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, AND IN PARAGUAY'S OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIFICALLY. THUS THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE ODC PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LEVER FOR THE U.S. IN SEEKING TO PROMOTE OUR MAIN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BETTER COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, AND CONTINUED PARAGUAYAN SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE LONG LEAD TIME ASSOCIATED WITH THE DELIVERY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES LENDS ITSELF TO THE

SECRET

SELECTIVE USE OF DELAYS, CANCELLATIONS, ETC. AS A TOOL TO BE USED IN FURTHERANCE OF U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. THIS CAN BE DONE SELECTIVELY, AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND MORE THAN ONCE. THIS CANNOT BE DONE WITH PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT FUNDED.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PARAGUAY IS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN THE U. S. AND PARAGUAYAN MILITARY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A DEGREE OF INFLUENCE WITH THIS HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL ELEMENT IN PARAGUAYAN SOCIETY. WE ALSO PROVIDE PART OF THE WHEREWITHAL FOR PARAGUAY'S INTERNAL SECURITY AND TO DETER POSSIBLE OVERT OR COVERT ACTIONS BY HER LARGE NEIGHBORS, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA. IMET WILL BE USED TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE OFFICER CORPS THROUGH PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL TRAINING, NOT AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY, REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR NATION-BUILDING PROJECTS.

(2). THREAT PERCEIVED BY HOST COUNTRY: PARAGUAY HAS BORDERS WITH BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA. ANY EXTERNAL THREAT MUST COME THROUGH, OR FROM, ONE OF THESE NEIGHBORS. REALISTICALLY, BECAUSE PARAGUAY WOULD NOT HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST EITHER BRAZIL OR ARGENTINA--AND ALSO BECAUSE OF HISTORIC AND EMOTIONAL REASONS--

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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BOLIVIA HAS BEEN CAST IN THE ROLE OF "BAD GUY" AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE CURRENT EXTERNAL THREAT. PARAGUAYAN STRATEGY IS FIRST TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA AND TO PLAY ONE OFF AGAINST THE OTHER. IN THE EVENT OF EXTERNAL ARMED INTERVENTION, PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES WOULD DELAY AN ENEMY ADVANCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, WHILE MOBILIZING AND HOPING FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. IF OVERRUN OR BYPASSED, INDIVIDUAL UNITS WOULD REVERT TO GUERRILA TACTICS IN THE INTERIOR.

BEYOND THE BOLIVIAN THREAT, THERE IS PAINTED AN INDISTINCT SPECTRE OF A "COMMUNIST THREAT," SOMEWHAT ILL-DEFINED, BUT TENDING TO ENCOMPASS ANYONE WHO DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE MENACE OF INERNATIONAL COMMUNISM IS EXAMPLIFIED BY THE SOVIET UNION, WITH ITS GOAL OF WORLD DOMINATION UNDER

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SECRET

COMMUNISM, AND ITS WORLD-WIDE NET OF SPIES AND AGENTS.CUBA IS SEEN AS RUSSIA'S AGENT IN LATIN AMERICA, WORKING DIRECTLY THROUGH ITS DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND INDIRECTLY THROUGH ITS SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SUBVERSIVE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNUAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE: PARAGUAY
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, PINR, PA
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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